

Filed for intro on 02/02/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0044
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the proposals calling for a constitutional convention and to develop comprehensive legislation from such proposals.

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee reads as follows:

“The Legislature shall have the right by law to submit to the people, at any general election, the question of calling a convention to alter, reform, or abolish the constitution, or to alter, reform, or abolish any specified part or parts of it”; and

WHEREAS, it has been over seventeen years since the last constitutional convention; held from August to December in 1977; and

WHEREAS, since that time, in this General Assembly, a large number of proposals to call for a constitutional convention have emerged; and

WHEREAS, in addition, it is important to consider that the Constitution of the State of Tennessee places a limitation on the frequency of constitutional conventions; limiting this state to not more than one convention in a six year period; and

WHEREAS, for this very reason, it is necessary for this Assembly to analyze the various pieces of legislation in existence that call for a constitutional convention to determine the needs

of such requests, and to consolidate the various pieces necessitating a convention into one comprehensive package; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to examine the various requests for constitutional change and, subsequently, develop comprehensive legislation to call for a constitutional convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this special joint committee shall be composed of five (5) members of the House of Representatives, and five (5) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members appointed to the special joint committee shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its final findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect from its membership, a chair, vice-chair, and any other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports to the 1996 session of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1996, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

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